

He did not appear, so I telephoned Mr. Hart from a pay station at a parking lot in San Jose. I asked Mr. Hart why he had not kept his appointment and he told me he was not further from that we were holding him in a room at the Alamo Hotel.

At 3:35 on November 19 I met Mr. Hart at a garage and he told me that the funeral had been placed in the window. We then decided to telephone Hart again, and at about 7:12 that night we drove the car in the vicinity of the Montgomery Hotel and found it.

Through a phone call, we then drove to a drug store and found it. We then went to Schubert Brothers' Garage on South Street and I phoned from a pay phone in the rear of the garage. I told Hart I had seen the number in the window and that Mr. Hart or some member of his family should drive the car away at once. I told Hart or his.

"I told Mr. Hart that the driver of the car would be told where he could pick up Brooke Hart as soon as he delivered the money. I told Mr. Hart I was one of the boys who wrote the letter on November 11. I also told Mr. Hart I had written the letter on November 11.

Like I finished this call. About the night custody by Sheriff Emil Blighed Thomas Thurmond.

Attorney General Hugh R. Thompson yesterday announced the arrest of Thomas H. Thurmond and John M. Holmes, San Jose, Calif., in the murder of Hart and for conspiracy in attempt to obtain ransom money. He said Thurmond had confessed fully to Bureau of Investigation agents and had implicated Holmes.

"While this affair is a Federal case in that the mails were used in the murder which will be charged against them."

The Attorney General said that the case would be handled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, San Jose, and Police Chief Quinn of San Jose and assistance to the Federal authorities. Mr. Cunningham said.

Mr. Hart, who was operated on last week, was reported in a precarious condition at her home and under the care of physicians. The youngest brother and sister of the slain youth also were present.

Thurmond's testimony follows in part: "I, Harold Thurmond, voluntarily make this statement to R. E. Vogel, Harold Adenomy, of the United States Department of Justice and to Sheriff William J. Hamilton that I have known Jack Holmes approximately one year and recently approached me with a plan to kidnap Brooke Hart and hold him for ransom."

"Thursday, November 9, shortly before 6 o'clock, Holmes and I saw Brooke Hart come to a parking lot in San Jose and I had previously planned just how we would kidnap Hart."

"Holmes was to get in the car on Greese Hart, as it approached Market street and I was to follow in another car which belonged to Holmes. Brooke Hart abandoned his car from, he lit and drove out the driveway toward Market street."

"Kidnaped in Own Car  
Jack Holmes met the car at a curb and forced Hart to get away with him. According to all indications, I followed the car. In Holmes' coach, which had been parked on Market street."

"As soon as I saw him pass me in Hart's car I proceeded to follow him and waited for them at the Gaslight Garage. Shortly thereafter Holmes and Hart drove by and I followed the car about 7 miles from San Jose."

"When Holmes stopped they both got out and Holmes told Hart to get in the back of the car I was driving. We stopped half a mile from the bridge Hart was ordered out."

W. A. J. 11

# Two Kidnappers Admit Murder Of Hart Youth

## Victim Tied and Thrown Alive Into Bay, Ills. Abductors State.

Continued from Page 1.

obtained in San Jose before we parted.

"Then Holmes first drove Hart to the hotel, but Holmes told him again and knecled him, un- sectional.

"Then I took some bedding and behind the arms of Brooks Hart around his body.

"We lifted him on to the railing of the bridge and tossed him into the bay. I recall as we lifted him he struggled slightly.

"While we were riding in the car with Hart, we asked him to turn over his money, which he did. His wallet contained a \$5 bill and \$2.50 in silver. We divided the money and I kept the silver.

"I went to the Williams Hotel and phoned to the Hart residence in San Jose. Some man answered and I inquired for Mr. Hart. Then he answered and I told her that her brother was being held for \$10,000 ransom. And if the family could not pay the money, we would murder the boy. They would never see Brooks Hart again.

"I had obtained an envelope at home and when I got to Tracy as arranged to let Hart on a card printed by Holmes and mailed from Sacramento that night.

"I remained in Sacramento a few minutes, got a bite to eat and re- turned to San Jose.

"I left San Jose about 11 in the morning with a second letter and drove to San Francisco and mailed it.

"I did not see Holmes until the fol- lowing day. We went by Hart's store Tuesday and saw the numerous signs I called Charles O'Brien, Jr. and personal friend of Brooks Hart, and gave Mr. O'Brien a message to deliver to Mr. Hart demanding further action.

Father Failed to Appear.

"This call was placed by Holmes from a pay station in a building in which Mr. Hart was to take a check with the \$10,000 and place it on the next quide him and drive it.

# Two Confess Tossing Hart Alive in Bay

## Mob Forces Removal of Admitted Kidnappers to San Francisco.

### Slain Prior to Demands for \$10,000 Ransom From Father.

San Jose, Calif., Nov. 15.—Two men who admitted they kidnapped and killed Brooks Hart, were arrested, without pos- sible violence, tonight, with- out a word being said to them.

The body of the San Jose merchant, slain by the mob, was recovered from San Francisco Bay, near the foot of the city, where it was found. The body was found in a small boat, with the name of the merchant on it. The body was found in a small boat, with the name of the merchant on it.

Lead O'Neil, prominent attorney, announced that he had secured the body of the merchant, slain by the mob, was recovered from San Francisco Bay, near the foot of the city, where it was found.

Ray Directed the Mob.

Near the place on the San Mateo County Bridge, a few miles from here, where the mob, led by Ray, kidnapped and killed Hart, was found. The body was found in a small boat, with the name of the merchant on it.

The search was pressed, however, after both State and Federal au- thorities declared that only one of the body was necessary to complete the case against Holmes and Thurmond, who will be tried under a new California law, which provides for the death penalty for kidnapping.

Every other detail of the murder, however, remains a mystery. The discovery of the body, which was found in the foot of the city, was a surprise.



NOT RECORDED

7-375 A

TU 7  
7 M

# Los Angeles Man Saw Kidnaped Boy

## Says Two Men Had Young Hart in Custody.

Los Angeles, Nov. 10 (AP).—District Attorney Byron Fille said today a Los Angeles cafe man has identified photographs of Brooke L. Hart, supposedly kidnaped San Jose youth, as being those of a young man he saw in his cafe early last Saturday morning in company of two burly men who appeared to be keeping him in close custody.

William H. Pabel, president of the San Jose National Bank, and Victor A. Chargin, attorney for Alex Hart, father of the missing youth, were here today. Hart is a director of the bank.

The Herald-Examiner said reports were current that Pabel and Chargin had come here either to raise money or to contact the supposed kidnappers.

Mr. Nathan  
Mr. L. J. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith  
Mr. J. H. Smith



NOT RECORDED

7-375-A

W. C. W. 9/11/33





EVENING STAR WASH. DC.

11-17-1933

|             |       |
|-------------|-------|
| Mr. Nathan  | _____ |
| Mr. Tolson  | _____ |
| Mr. Clegg   | _____ |
| Mr. Glavin  | _____ |
| Mr. Ladd    | _____ |
| Mr. Nichols | _____ |
| Mr. Quinn   | _____ |
| Mr. Lester  | _____ |
| Mr. Locke   | _____ |

The San Jose Atrocity.

For sheer diabolism, the kidnaping and murder of young Brooks Hart at San Jose, Calif., last week, yesterday solved by the confusion of his captors and slayers, has no parallel in American crime records. Two young men conceived the plan of abducting the youth for ransom and within an hour after taking him had mortally wounded him and thrown his bound body from a bridge. They then opened negotiations by telephone with his father for his return upon payment of \$40,000. Trapped by an ingenious tapping of the telephone lines by Federal operatives who had been summoned for the investigation, these men have confessed and acknowledged that they had no intention of restoring their hostage, but had slain him because, as one of them said, they didn't want to bother with keeping him around the countryside, and we didn't want to take the chance of his escaping and giving us away.

Their young men were not of the criminal class. They were members of good families and had no records of misbehavior. They conceived the plan of kidnaping as a way to raise money. Strongly enough, they seem to have

been educated in their murderous enterprises by recent captives, but they were not deterred by the successful pursuit of gangsters of experience and criminal ability who have lately been imprisoned. The capture and conviction of these men, with virtual assurance of their prompt conviction and execution for murder, for which the highest credit should be given to the Federal operative, should be a further deterrent to kidnaping for ransom in this country, which in the past few years has been one of the most serious handicaps to American civilization and the efficacy of the law.

Please return  
to Miss Buchanan

4/1

NOT RECORDED

7-375-A

Handwritten signature/initials.

# GIRL PORTRAYS HART KIDNAPER AS A DON JUAN

Asserts Holmes Asked Her to  
Leave Husband and Elope;  
Search Still Seeks Victim

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18 (U. S.).—An attractive young San Jose woman, a high school sweetheart of John Holmes, one of the confessed abductors and slayers of Brock L. Hart, revealed today that Holmes recently asked her to leave her husband and elope with him.

The statement was made by Mrs. Gertrude Estensen, 24, a next-door neighbor of Holmes, and was one of the outstanding developments of the day as prosecuting officials continued their efforts to complete the kidnap-murder case against Holmes and his confessed accomplice, Thomas H. Thurnham.

In addition to the revelation that Mrs. Estensen was the "mystery woman" in the case, developments today included the following:

1.—Spurred to renewed efforts by the finding of a concrete block and coil of wire near the Alameda where officials pressed their search for young Hart's body and for the gun which Thurnham and Holmes say they used in the abduction. They have made statements admitting that they stuffed the boy's head in a pillow case, threw him over the bridge rail into the water, and then stuffed his stuffed outfit with shoes from the robbery.

2.—A new possibility that Thurnham and Holmes may have had an accomplice in their crime was seen in a report that the pair were observed last Monday, about the time the last ransom note was written, in company with a white-haired old man, apparently writing a letter.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Mumford  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

NOT RECORDED

7-375-A

W.H. D. 9/11/33

WASHINGTON D.C. STEE - November 18 1933. x 10 7/10 112

## WOMAN IS QUIZZED IN HART KIDNAPING

Dragging for Body Continued.  
San Francisco Crowd  
Shouts "Lynch Him."

By the Associated Press  
SAN FRANCISCO, November 18.—  
Dragging for the body of Brooke L.  
Hart, 32, in San Francisco Bay, near  
the spot where kidnappers allegedly  
buried him from a helter, was carried  
on with reserved hopes today.

A cement block and a coil of wire  
were brought to the surface by grap-  
pling hooks. Hart, washed down with  
blocks similar to the one found, was  
thrown from the helter several hundred  
feet from where the cement and wire  
were tossed into the water, according  
to James M. Holmes and Thomas H.  
Thurmond, who authorities said, con-  
fessed the kidnaping and slaying.

Cries of "lynch him" were shouted by  
persons in a crowd gathered outside  
San Francisco Department of Justice  
headquarters at Thurmond, who had  
been taken there for questioning, was  
brought out to be returned to the prison  
last night.

Despite the cries, police easily cleared  
a path through the crowd and Thur-  
mond was loaded into an automobile  
and driven away.

A woman, identified as an acquaint-  
ance of Holmes, was questioned by  
Sheriff William Egan of San Jose. Egan  
said he believed Holmes and his wife  
had separated recently because of an-  
other woman. The officer said he did  
not believe any one except the two men  
was directly involved in the crime.  
Under the new California law, death  
or life imprisonment are mandatory in  
cases where an abduction victim re-  
ceives bodily harm.

NOT RECORDED

7-375-A

W. H. D. S. b. 11/18/33

60981  
12-1

## Slayer of Hart 'Never Missed' Sunday School

SAN JOSE, Cal., Nov. 18. (U.P.)—Thomas Thurmond, one of the confessed kidnaper slayers of Brooke Hart, went to church last Sunday, and when the pastor called upon his congregation members to arise in silent prayer for the safe return of young Hart, Thurmond bowed his head in ostensible prayer along with the rest.

Of father's mother and today.

"My boy was raised a Christian in a Christian household. He never was in trouble before. He was a good boy and never missed Sunday school or church. This is almost unbelievable. I can't say more until I know something more than that in the papers."

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Mr. Nathan  |  |
| Mr. Tolson  |  |
| Mr. Clegg   |  |
| Mr. Glavin  |  |
| Mr. Ladd    |  |
| Mr. Nichols |  |
| Mr. Rosen   |  |
| Mr. Tracy   |  |
| Mr. Carson  |  |
| Mr. Egan    |  |
| Mr. Gurnea  |  |
| Mr. Hendon  |  |
| Mr. Jones   |  |
| Mr. Quinn   |  |
| Mr. Nease   |  |
| Miss Gandy  |  |

NOT RECORDED

7-375-A

W.H. R. 10/21/33



WASHINGTON P.C. FIELD - November 1933

## BAY YIELDS HAT WORN BY HART

SAN JOSE, CALIF., Nov. 19 (U.P.)—The hat Brocke L. Hart, 77, wore when he was kidnaped November 9, was found today in San Francisco Bay, near the San Mateo Hayward Bridge.

The hat was convincing evidence that Thomas H. Thurmond and J. M. Holmes did not lie when they confessed they kidnaped the Santa Clara University graduate, beat him, bound him with wire and fixed weights to his feet, then tossed him "still struggling" into the bay.

### HAT IDENTIFIED

Sheriff William Emig took the hat to Alex. J. Hart, rich department store owner, who positively identified it as the one his son wore when he disappeared.

The hat was picked up several hundred yards from the place on the bridge from which Hart was believed to have been thrown.

Two cement blocks and a coil of balling wire already have been dragged from the bottom of the bay. Thurmond said Holmes probably threw them overboard after other blocks had been used in weighting Hart's feet. Thurmond said Holmes struck the youth on the head with one of the blocks.

### DIVERS AT SCENE

Two divers, and police and Coast Guard boats with grappling irons were spurred to new efforts by finding of the hat. The father of the slain youth reportedly was willing to pay \$1,000 reward to the man who finds Brocke's body.

(NOT RECORDED)



# Hart Hat Found At Death Scene; Alibi Blocked

WASHINGTON D.C. POST - November

1933.

## Woman Tells of Visit From Prisoner Day After Deed.

San Jose, Calif., Nov. 19 (AP)—Pressing the search for the body of Bruce Hart, victim of a kidnap plot to obtain \$40,000, authorities today found his hat on the Alameda County side of San Francisco Bay.

The hat, identified by Deputy Sheriff John Moore, was found north of the San Mateo Bridge, from which the two men held, Thomas H. Thurmond and Jack Holmes, have allegedly confessed they threw young Hart after he had been stunned by blows.

Two investigators for the Alameda County District Attorney's office, George Henningsen and Joseph Brandon, found the hat.

Inside the hatband was the name of the San Jose department store operated by young Hart and his father, Alar J. Hart.

### Continue to Drag Bay

Meanwhile police continued their operations of dragging the Bay with grappling hooks in an endeavor to recover the body, weighted with concrete blocks, before it was thrown from the bridge as happened after Hart was kidnaped as he drove his roadster from a parking lot here November 8.

Four nearly a week efforts were made to get the father to pay the \$40,000. Last Wednesday night Thurmond was believed as he was talking over a telephone to the eldest Hart and a few hours later Holmes was arrested in a hotel.

Sheriff Emig revealed he had questioned Mrs. H. G. Gum, attractive young San Jose matron, regarding her friendship with Thurmond. Emig said the accused man admitted "unrequited love" for Mrs. Gum made him "get off his nut" when she married another man a year ago.

### Tried to Fix Alibi

The sheriff said Mrs. Gum admitted she had seen Thurmond the day before and the day following young Hart's kidnaping and that he had attempted to persuade her to furnish him an alibi.

Mrs. Gum refused to give any aid the sheriff declared. She did not know the nature of the conspiracy, then, she said.

The hat, picked up from the mud this morning, was thrown into the water by the police. It was found in the water near the bridge.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Starnes  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tamm  
Mr. Tamm

NOT RECORDED

7-375-A

W. A. R. 8

# Ransom Set At \$40,000 In S. F. Call

Brooke Hart, Son of  
Leading Merchant, Dis-  
appears After  
Business

Father Telephoned by  
Abductors From Ho-  
tel Whitcomb

Brooke Hart, 22-year-old son of  
one of San Jose's wealthiest mer-  
chants, was being sought last night  
as the victim of a \$40,000 kidnapping  
plot.

The youth, son of Alexander J.  
Hart, and a partner with his father  
of the Hart Department Store, dis-  
appeared shortly after he left the  
company's place of business about  
5 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

## DAD GETS PHONE CALL

Shortly after 11 o'clock last night  
Hart senior received a telephone  
call demanding \$40,000 for the safe  
return of his son.

The call was traced to a tele-  
phone pay booth in the Whitcomb  
Hotel here. Police hastened to the  
hotel, but could find no trace of  
the kidnappers.

Hart told police a man's voice on  
the phone after demanding \$40,000  
and further instructions would be  
forthcoming on the morrow.

## CALLER HANGS UP

Immediately after their brief con-  
versation, the party on the other  
end of the line hung up.

Hart communicated with the  
police. For a time every effort  
was made by police to ascertain  
the name of young Hart's dis-  
appearance.

Meanwhile police throughout the  
Bay area were alerted and a  
widepread hunt.

In San Francisco, squad cars  
routed through the streets watching  
all highways leading in and out of  
the city.

## PAID RANSOM DEMAND

Police at first denied a demand  
for ransom had been made. Later  
they admitted it.

Searches of members of the big  
department, which occupies most  
of a block at Market and Santa  
Clara streets, were increased later  
the hint by the distressed father.  
Police in the meantime guarded  
the palatial Hart home, 1718 The  
Alameda, where reside the youth's  
mother and his three sisters.

Members of the family were kept  
quiet about kidnapping the son. It  
was said that Hart was near pro-  
stitution.

# Rich San Jose Man Kidnaped

(Continued from Page 1)  
youth came from the fact that they  
joined in with a man.

Many of them took out their  
cars and patrolled the highways.

The youth drove away from the  
store in his own Studebaker road-  
ster, bearing the license number,  
5-H-1891.

Belief the youth was driven here  
in the car was expressed when the  
ransom demand call was traced to  
the Hotel Whitcomb.

## CAR NOT SEEN

At the hotel here no one re-  
membered having seen the car and  
could not recall any suspicious ap-  
pearance around using a telephone  
booth there.

The Hart family is rather one of  
the wealthiest in San Jose.

Hart is a stockholder in vari-  
ous hotels and other enterprises.

Police said when young Hart failed  
to appear for dinner at 7 p. m. particu-  
lar anxiety was felt. As the word  
on members of the family included  
he had another engagement, but  
they waited for word from him in  
vain.

And then came the telephone  
message.

"Your son is kidnaped. We will  
want \$40,000 for his safe return.  
You will receive further instruc-  
tions in the morning."

From the attitude of the police it  
was believed that the kidnappers had  
demanded money. The police de-  
partment tried its best to conserve  
secrecy but the news leaked out and  
then there was nothing to do but  
admit it.

NOT RECORDED

7-375-A

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h

as the victim of a ...  
pick.

The wreck, man of Alexander J. Hart, and a partner with his name of the Hart Department Store, disappeared shortly after he left the company's place of business about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

**DAD GETS PHONE CALL**  
Shortly after 11 o'clock last night Hart's partner received a telephone call demanding \$50,000 for the safe return of his son.

The son was traced to a telephone booth in the vicinity of the hotel where, police believed to be held, but could find no trace of the kidnaper.

Hart said police a man's voice on the phone after demanding \$50,000 and further information would be forthcoming in the morning.

**CLEVELAND, OHIO, 11-11-35**  
Yesterday afternoon the Cleveland police department received a call from a man who said he had information regarding the whereabouts of the son of Alexander J. Hart.

The man, who was identified as a Cleveland resident, said he had information regarding the whereabouts of the son of Alexander J. Hart.

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The man, who was identified as a Cleveland resident, said he had information regarding the whereabouts of the son of Alexander J. Hart.

on persons of the ...  
they valued for ...  
And then came the telephone ...  
message.  
"You see a message. We will ...  
want \$50,000 for the safe return ...  
You will receive further ...  
news in the morning."  
From the attitude of the police it ...  
was believed that the kidnaper had ...  
desisted for the time being and had ...  
admitted it.

NOT BROUGHT

7-375-A

San Francisco "Chronicle", dated 11/10/33.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
BROCKE HART - Victim.  
Kidnaping.

## Police seek Scion of San Jose Family

Bronke Hart, Wealthy  
Merchant's Son, Van-  
ishes After Busi-  
ness Hours

Bronke Hart, 22-year-old son of one of San Jose's wealthiest mer-  
chants, was being sought last night  
as the victim of a kidnaping plot.

The youth, son of Alexander J.  
Hart, and a partner with his father  
of the Hart Investment Place, dis-  
appeared shortly after he left the  
company's place of business about  
8 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

POLICE ADMIT KIDNAPING  
Police admitted the youth had  
been kidnaped.

A few hours later it was learned  
the kidnapers had been traced to  
San Francisco, but here the search  
had been fruitless.

The Federal Department of Jus-  
tice was notified and agents from  
San Francisco and other headquarters  
were cooperating with police in the  
search.

Meanwhile police throughout the  
Bay area were kept posted into a  
widespread hunt.

### FIND ABANDONED CAR

Young Hart's car was found aban-  
doned after 1 o'clock this morning  
a mile and a half east of Alhambra  
on the Evans road.

Police said when young Hart failed  
to appear for dinner at 7:30 yester-  
day evening, his father was alarmed.  
At that time several family members  
had another engagement, but  
they waited for word from him in  
vain.

The police department held no  
press conference yesterday but the police

## Rich San Jose Man Kidnaped

(Continued from Page 1)  
youth came from the father's car  
joined in with a car.  
Many of them took the car  
and patrolled the highway.  
The youth drove away from the  
store in his own black and white  
sterling, leaving the license number  
5-11-1111.  
The Hart family is noted one of  
the wealthiest in San Jose.  
Hart Sr. is a stockholder in vari-  
ous hotels and other interests.



The bullet-proof had been fired at San Francisco, but here the event had been here.

The Federal Department of Justice was notified and agents from San Francisco and other departments were cooperating with police in the search.

Meanwhile police throughout the Bay area were impressed into a widespread hunt.

#### FOUND ABANDONED CAR

Young Hart's car was found abandoned about 10 blocks this morning on a mile and a half east of Alameda on the Grand Road.

Police said when young Hart failed to appear for duty at 3 no particular anxiety was felt. At this point members of the family concluded he had another engagement, but they waited for word from him in vain.

The police department found no lead in nearby territory and the news broke out and then there was nothing to do but admit the youth was missing.

Officers told of what was believed to have been a previous attempt to kidnap the boy.

Three weeks ago three men in a light car tried to crowd Brock's automobile to the curb. Undeterred, they followed him for several blocks until he outdistanced them in his speeding car.

#### POLICE ACTIVE HERE

In San Francisco agents can move through the streets watching all highways leading to and from the city.

Members of the family were hesitant about discussing the case. It was said Mrs. Hart was next in trouble.

Streams of employees of the big department store, which occupies nearly a block at Market and Davis (both streets), were impressed into the hunt by the district attorney. Police in the neighborhood guarded the palatial Hart home, 1115 The Alameda, where reside the youth's mother and his three sisters.

#### POPULAR IN SOCIETY

Young Hart, popular in society circles of San Jose and nearby cities, was only recently made a partner of the firm by his father. He was well liked by employees of the big establishment and since the charges that they did in search of the

Continued on Page 11, Col. 2

NOT RECORDED

7-275-A

# Murder Are Found

101-101000000  
 101-101000000  
 101-101000000  
 101-101000000  
 101-101000000

Mrs. J. E. Smith  
Mr. J. E. Smith  
Mrs. J. E. Smith  
Mr. J. E. Smith  
Mrs. J. E. Smith

The two were taken from the city hall to the Department of Justice headquarters for questioning. Holman was returned without incident, but when Thompson was removed to an auto, a crowd had gathered. Father showed the mob a battered copy of "Truth Skin" failed to inspire action.

The concrete blocks, each weighing 72 pounds, were used by the Americans to wriggle the body of their victim, according to those confessions. Authorities prepared indictments on which they hoped to send the pair to the gallows.



ing, despite the fact that the San Jose county jail was ringed with reporters, cameramen and curious citizens, the men were smuggled out under heavy guard, placed in machines and brought to San Francisco, arriving shortly before noon.

On the way up the peninsula the party halted at the San Mateo Bay bridge, where Thompson ordered out to the arresting officers the spot where young Mart's body had been hurled over the rails into the waters of the bay.

The kidnapping of Mart faces the death penalty under the California state law and fine and imprisonment under the Federal law.

The California legislature at its last session passed a law providing the death penalty in kidnappings with ransom demands or where violence is offered the victim.



# ADMITTS KIDNAPPING, SLAYING

## WITHIN HOUR HART ABDUCTORS SPIRITED AWAY AS MOB GATHERS

*Chico Inquire*  
11-17-'33

**SUSPECT SEIZED  
AT PHONE AS HE  
DEMANDS \$40,000**

Confesses He and Companion Abducted Son  
of Wealthy San Jose, Cal., Merchant, Beat  
Him Unconscious With Brick, Then Hurlled  
His Body Into Bay From Bridge

NOT RECORDED

# Woman Arrested In Hart Kidnaping; 2 Killers Collapse

Girl Believed to Have Been  
Motive Behind Holmes'  
Career of Crime

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 17 (U.S.).—A concrete block, with wires wrapped around it, was found tonight in the bay, off the San Mateo Hayward Bridge, one mile west of the Alameda shore. The block is similar to that described by the kidnapers as having been attached to the body of Brooke Hart.

By ALVIN HYMAN

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 17 (U.S.).—Secretly taken into custody and whisked immediately out of San Jose, a woman late today dramatically entered the crime that has staggered all California—the kidnaping and murder of 13-year-old Brooke Hart.

A woman of mystery, described only as the woman who came between Jack Holmes and his family, she was taken into custody by Sheriff W. J. King of Santa Clara county and rushed to some undisclosed destination—probably in San Francisco or San Mateo county.

## SEEN AS ACCOMPLICE

And there, according to meager information from the sheriff's office, she was being questioned concerning her possible part in the crime that led to arrest of Holmes and Thomas H. Thurmond as his confessed kidnapers and slayers.

She is the woman, according to King, whom Holmes named as the cause of his arrest at the time of the quarrel between Holmes and his wife—the quarrel which sent Holmes from his home to the San Jose hotel where he was arrested.

She was taken into custody late today.

King, however, declined to say whether she was an accomplice.

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## Thurmond Joined Prayer For Hart's Return

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 17 (U.S.).—Thomas Harold Thurmond, who after kidnapping Brooke Hart, lived his way into the bay after having it off the San Mateo Bridge, attended church services here last night and entered a prayer for the safe return of Brooke Hart.

## LABOR ADVISER NAMED

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 (U.S.).—The labor adviser named by the President as one of the committee members to study the economic situation was today announced as Dr. Frank B. Rowland, a well-known economist and labor expert.

7-375 A

104 R

file

# Woman Hunt Begun in Hart Murder Case

Auto License Traced  
for Clue to Notes;  
Two Sought.

Kidnap Car Seen, Cries  
From Bay Heard  
Night of Crime.

San Francisco, Nov. 12.—Orders to "find the woman" in the abduction of Brooke Hart, 22, were issued by Sheriff William J. Knig of San Jose today as officers obtained evidence apparently substantiating the purported confession of two men that they abducted and killed the youth.

The woman angle developed, Knig said, when Wesley Shaver, of Campbell, Calif., reported he had seen a woman and a gray-haired man helping two other men write a mysterious note last Monday.

The sheriff said he was working on the theory that the woman had some connection with John Holmes, who, with Thomas Herold Thurmond, allegedly confessed the abduction and slaying of the son of Alex J. Hart, wealthy merchant.

## Domestic Quarrel Cited

Knig expressed the belief a woman had recently caused a quarrel between Holmes and his wife, leading Holmes to move to a San Jose hotel.

The sheriff said the Campbell youth's suspicions were aroused and he took the number of the gray-haired man's car.

B. E. Vallery in charge of the San Francisco division of the Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation, made public the three ransom notations the elder Hart.

"Your son is OK and treated well," said one mailed November 14. "One more pay, will be his faith."

The second, mailed November 15 from San Francisco, gave directions for the payment of the ransom.

The third, November 15, demanded immediate payment and said:

"Killing him is the easy way, with little risk to us."

## Cries from Bay Heard

A police report of cries coming from the waters about San Mateo bridge the night of November 2 partially substantiated the alleged confession of Thurmond and Holmes that they kidnaped, beat and bound Hart, and threw him into the bay.

The report from Hayward, near the eastern end of the span, was sent to J. M. Black, chief of police of San Jose, and amplified in a letter from the wife of one of two men who heard the cries.

The story came to officers while four boats were dragging the water about the bridge in search of the body and while Thurmond and Holmes were being held in San Francisco as a precaution against mob violence in San Jose.

## Both Sign Confessions

In the latter city Sheriff William J. Knig's office said Holmes had made a signed confession similar to that of Thurmond made public yesterday. Holmes' alleged confession stated that Thurmond fired several shots at Hart after the youth was thrown into the bay.

The statement said Holmes gave Thurmond his gun "to cover Hart" after he had struck the boy on the head with a brick.

The Hayward police report, and the letter showed Vernon Ridley and Al Coley, partners in a wood business, heard cries about 7:25 p. m., November 2, about an hour and a half after young Hart disappeared.

## Car Seen at Bridge

Ridley and Coley said they were gathering driftwood along the water's edge near the bridge, saw an automobile move westward on the span, stop and turn back. They said they heard the cry, "Help, help," as the automobile stopped, and some one was heard to cry "Leave me alone! Leave me alone!"

After the automobile turned back, said the wood hunters, they heard the call for help repeated. They shouted that they were coming and again heard some one yell "Hurry!"

They reached the bridge and heard the voice say "I can't hold on much longer." This sound, they said, apparently came from under the bridge, about the piling. They searched the spot and found nothing, but reported the incident to the Hayward police.

## Wife Describes Incident

Mrs. Ridley, in a letter to Chief of Police Black today, also described the incident and added:

"The man in distress never was seen and never was heard again. His voice was irritable in tone, sending chills up and down my husband's spine. There is quite a bit more that we could tell, but do not know how to write it."

Another bit of evidence was the discovery of a piece of fabric similar to that of the shirt which young Hart was wearing.

NOT RECORDED  
7-575A

W. H. B. J.